



State of Nevada Organ and Tissue Donation Task Force

*Frankie Sue Del Papa
Co-Chair*

*Assemblywoman Dawn Gibbons
Co-Chair*

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CONTACT: Danelle Snodgrass
(775) 687-6300

NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH – NOVEMBER 12-14, 2004

Carson City – Faith communities throughout the country will observe National Donor Sabbath on November 12-14 this year by implementing activities to increase awareness of the critical need for organs and tissues and the miracle of transplantation. This ninth annual interfaith celebration of life will stress the importance of donation. Faith leaders who participate in discussions of donation with their congregants affirm that choosing to be an organ and tissue donor offers the opportunity to share the greatest blessing of all – *the Gift of Life*. Most religions in the United States support organ and tissue donation as an honored and compassionate expression of generosity and love.

Participation in National Donor Sabbath has increased each year, but more individuals must become aware of donation. “The goal of our Gift of Life Donation Initiative,” says Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, “is to get information out, to encourage families all over America to understand the importance of organ donation, and to increase the number of donors. People need to talk to their families and make their intentions known. Organ donation is a gift that proves beyond a doubt that out of tragedy can come hope...out of death, new life.”

There are close to 90,000 people in the United States who are in need of a lifesaving organ transplant. More than 6,100 people will die this year alone waiting for a suitable donor. Seventeen transplant candidates die every day waiting for their second chance at life.

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“I would like to call on all Nevadans to please give careful thought to giving ‘The Gift of Life’ by becoming an organ and tissue donor,” said Frankie Sue Del Papa, Co-Chair for the Nevada Organ and Tissue Donation Task Force. “The decision you make today will help save lives tomorrow.”

Assemblywoman Dawn Gibbons, also Co-Chair for the Nevada Organ and Tissue Donation Task Force said, “By agreeing to give the ‘Gift of Life’ Nevadans can play a significant role in helping to save the lives of others through their thoughtful act of kindness.”

For more information and to obtain an Interfaith Clergy Resource Manual (worship resources, sample sermons, bulletin inserts, etc.) please visit: <http://www.donor-awareness.org/spirituality.html>.

For more information on organ donation and the Nevada Organ and Tissue Donation Task Force please visit our website at: www.giftoflife.nv.gov.

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*1000 E. William Street, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: (775) 687-6300 ext. 233
Fax: (775) 687-6304
Website: <http://giftoflife.nv.gov>*